

Shelburne Police Service warning residents about CEO scam

The Shelburne Police Service is warning residents of what is known as the CEO scam. This scam involves an employee at a business receiving an email from the fraudster stating that they are the CEO, the manager, the owner or the president of the business. The employee is instructed to take money and buy gift cards. The employee is then asked to email the pin numbers on the rear of the gift cards to the fraudster, which allows the fraudster to use the gift cards immediately.

This fraud has occurred across Canada, including in Shelburne. This has been a costly fraud nationwide, with some business losing up to \$5000.00.

The Shelburne Police Service wants business owners to ensure that their employees are aware of this scam and know to ask questions of their management if they think that someone is attempting to make them a victim of fraud.

Some helpful tips from the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre are:

- ? Beware of unsolicited phone calls or emails from people presenting an urgent situation requiring immediate attention.
- ? Educate employees at every level to be wary of unsolicited phone calls and emails.
- ? Take a careful look at the sender's email address. It may be very similar to the real one, with only slight differences.
- ? Give authority to only some staff to approve purchases, pay bills and establish a standard procedure that requires multiple approvals for financial transactions.
- ? Make sure employees know how to verify a request for money before making a payment.